



The Messenger

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Students and Course Coordinator (far right) gather for a group photo after completing a 7-night CERT program.

Record 22 of 26 Complete Initial CERT Training

Twenty-six citizens registered and 22 were able to complete a two-week Chesterfield CERT Initial Training course on June 3-12 at the Eanes-Pittman Public Safety Training Center. Chesterfield Emergency Coordinator Lynda Price presented the participants with Certificates of Completion and the standard CERT equipment back pack during a ceremony on the final night of the course. Those who received (**See Page 2**)

Behind the CERT Scenes: Sue Maddox Toth

Sue Maddox Toth knows how to relax, but when the veteran emergency planner works she gives it 120 percent of her time and efforts. In addition to her full-time job as an emergency services planner for the Virginia Department of Transportation, Mrs. Toth is a member of Chesterfield Emergency Planning Committee, an instructor for the Citizens Emergency Response Team on the state level and an instructor for the Chesterfield County CERT Program. "I like to keep busy," she says simply. "VDOT is my third career – so far." (**See Page 2**)



The Messenger

Chesterfield County CERT Program

July 2008, Page 2



Behind the CERT Scenes: *Sue Maddox Toth (Continued)*

Sue was attracted to the CERT program because it appealed to her belief that citizens must learn to help themselves and their neighbors in any disaster. She worked to establish an active CERT program within VDOT and worked with the Virginia Capitol Police to maintain that organization's program. As a member of the Chesterfield Emergency Planning Committee, Sue volunteered to teach in the County's program when she learned of openings for instructors. She also teaches within the Henrico County CERT Program.

Sue began working for VDOT in the Hampton Roads area 19 years ago. She came to VDOT's headquarters in Richmond in 1996 and earned a position of Emergency Services Planner in May 2004. "We plan for the worst in any emergency and work for the best," she said. Her office is adjacent to the VDOT Emergency Operations Center on East Broad Street. "I found that the principles of CERT can be applied both to a home, a neighborhood and an office during a disaster. It has helped me prepare my own home and to manage our VDOT CERT team."

Sue is married to Jim Toth, a network analyst for the Virginia Supreme Court. They share a new home in eastern Henrico County with nine cats. Vegetable and flower gardening are her stress-relievers. Sue also has an abiding interest in Virginia's Native American community. "I have Native American ancestors and events like powwows and other Native gatherings make me feel closer to my home."

Record 22 of 26 Complete Initial CERT Training (Continued)

CERT course completion certificates were: **Barbara J. Bradford, LaWanda J. Christian, Kim Cuthbertson, William M. Fisher, Debra Gates, Bonny Hajek, Linda C. Harry, Matthew Harvey, William Harvey, Gregory H. Hopper, F. Dorsey Houston, Paul Hughes, John F. Jones Jr., Carla Nelms, John A. Olson III, David L. Palumbo, Curtis A. Self, Barbara Plunkett Turner, David L. Wynn, Jane B. Wynn, Cynthia Wells, and Patricia R. White.**

Course instructors were: **Sue Maddox Toth, Cindy Shelton, David A. Schneider, Carol Smithson, David Palumbo, Heidi Hooker, Ray George** and Course Coordinator **Jon Donnelly.**

Palumbo, a CERT fire suppression instructor, elected to take the entire course. Ms. Cuthbertson was unable to complete her original CERT course in November 2007 and returned to complete the training and receive her certificate and back pack. The four who did not complete this program will be given priority to complete it during the September initial certification course.



Jane and David Wynn practice bandaging skills during one of two Medical Operations classes in June.

Registration is open for the next CERT initial training course beginning Sept. 9 through Sept. 18. There is no charge for the course and 24 slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional information is available by e-mail to jondon42@verizon.net or by calling 804-318-8700 and leaving a name, address and phone number.

The Messenger

Chesterfield County CERT Program

July 2008, Page 3



Continuing Education and Other Programs

Two continuing education classes, ***Disaster Psychology***, a CERT Initial Training subject, and a ***Give Me 5 for Stroke*** program each drew 18 Citizen Corps Council participants in May 21 and June 18.. Continuing education classes alternate between reviews of CERT course topics and new information. Future classes include another ***CPR/AED*** class on Aug. 20, ***Injury Prevention*** on Oct. 22, and a review of ***Fire Suppression*** on Dec. 3.

Continuing education classes are designed for those who have completed CERT Initial Training, but also are open to members of other Citizen Corps Council organizations such as the Medical Reserve Corps and Neighborhood Watch. The Chesterfield CERT program is working with the Medical Reserve Corps and Neighborhood Watch to coordinate education and training programs that will be beneficial to members of all three groups.

Three Chesterfield CERT members completed a two-day, 16-hour Virginia Department of Emergency Management CERT instructor training course on June 7 and 8 at Henrico County Fire Training Center. They were **Jeff Thomas III**, **Toni Harper** and **Jon Donnelly**.

A total of six CERT Crime and six Fugitive Alerts were distributed during May and June to all CERT members. They contain information from the Chesterfield Neighborhood Watch and Crime Solvers programs. This cooperative effort expands the audiences for information to include all CERT members.

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Chesterfield County's CERT Program is sponsored by the Chesterfield Citizens Corps Council. For more information, contact Lynda F. Price, Chesterfield Emergency Management Coordinator, at (804) 748-1236 (pricel@chesterfield.gov)



CERT Course Photo Clips

F. Dorsey Houston (center) asks a question of Instructor Ray George (at left) during one of seven classes that comprise the CERT Initial Training Program in Chesterfield County. The photos on the next page provide a view of how students in the course used their time to watch, learn and practice medically-related skills under the direction of Ray George and his instructing partner Heidi Hooker, EMT-Paramedic, during a two-night session. Turn to Page 4 for more photos.



CERT Course Photo Clips (Continued)



Heidi Hooker (kneeling center, photo at left) and Ray George show student Jane Eschagpoor (at right) how to perform patient assessment skills on "patient" F. Dorsey Houston. Students Jane Wynn (left, photo above) Debra Gates and Kim Cuthbertson watch as medical skills are demonstrated.



Curtis Self (kneeling, photo at left) asks "patient" John Jones Jr. to describe his "injuries" during a patient assessment exercise. Linda Harry (at left, photo below) watches as LaWanda Christian practices dressing a simulated injury to her arm.

